

THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

The Over-Neat Wife.

The neatest woman in town
Folks say I've got for a wife;
And what folks say is gospel truth
This time, you bet your life.
Keturah Brown she beats the world
On bakin' bread and pies;
But her best hold is fightin' dirt
And circumventin' flies.

Her temper's like her piecrust, which
They're both uncommon short,
An' tho' I am free-and-easy like
Sometimes she makes me snort,
There ain't no sense in havin' things
So dum'd all-fired neat,
Nor sayin' ev'ry time I step,
"Now, Zek'l, wipe your feet!"

I can't set down in our best room,
It is so slick and spruce;
Fact is, 'most everything we've got's
Too good for common use.
Though next to godliness the Book
Puts cleanliness, I am bound
To say Keturah's mighty apt
To run it in the ground.

There ain't no use in klickin'; I'm
Prepared to bear my cross.
Some day, perhaps, I'll wear my
crown;

Keturah she can't boss
Things round in heaven. An' since
we're told

That there no moth nor rust
Comes to corrupt, I guess it's safe
To say there ain't no dust.

But, oh, what will Keturah do
Within those pearly gates
If she no longer finds the dirt
That she so dearly hates?
O'ershadowed heaven itself will be,
Engulfed in awful gloom,
When my Keturah enters in
And can not use a broom.

—Portland Transcript.

House-Cleaning.

"It does seem a pity," said Mrs. Follansbee, "that house-cleaning always comes along in the spring, when it is so pleasant to be out of doors enjoying one's self. Nature manages her work very much better; she gets through her worst campaigns in February and March."

"You would never need an annual house-cleaning, lady," said Mrs. New Woman, "if you would do away with your tiresome carpets, and content yourself with hardwood floors, or else with painted or stained ones, and put down a rug or two. Rugs that may be taken up and shaken every few days, floors that may be mopped, or wiped, or polished at will, simplify the house-keeping problem very much. I do believe that but for carpets one need never clean house in the old-fashioned meaning of the term."

"But dust does accumulate, and bric-a-brac gathers it, and the lace curtains and draperies are its hiding places; and as for insect pests, they would get the better of us, if there were no cleaning done."

"Shades of my grandmothers! I never meant to imply that one could get along without a battle with dirt," exclaimed Mrs. New Woman. "But I do mean that one may use modern methods; one may keep so clean straight along that she does not need a cyclone once a year. I have never forgotten how my father hated house-cleaning times, and in consequence I manage so nicely now, that my husband does not suspect that the house

is ever cleaned. He probably supposes that it cleans itself."

"Well," said Aunt Betsey, our peace-maker, observing that Mrs. Follansbee looked a little annoyed, "you are both right, according to your lights. We, who have always had carpeted floors, prefer them, and you who enjoy the later fashion, stand up for that. My view is that we may as well attack the fortress by easy stages, clean the cellar thoroughly one week, and the attic the next. Then, by degrees, we may go over closets and pantries, do the other rooms one at a time, and finish up finally with the wood-shed, tiring nobody, and giving ourselves sufficient intervals in between, to wander forth into the fields and parks and get the good of the spring. I hope, too, that we'll not forget our garden-ing. Even if we can have only a very few flowers, they will help us to be happier and better."

"I happened on a chapter in a book I was reading," said Mrs. Emerson, "and I copied it for just such an occasion as this, when we dear gossips meet over a cup of afternoon tea. The name of the book? It is 'What a Woman of Forty-five Ought to Know,' and the woman who wrote it is a doctor, Mrs. Emma F. Angell Drake. One thing that gives me confidence in her is that she was, at one time, connected with Mr. Moody's school for girls at East Northfield. That is a regular certificate of her worth in my eyes. Here is my quotation from Dr. Drake:

"I knew a woman several years ago, who began married life on an un-cleared farm in one of our western states. She did all sorts of work, both indoor and out, incidental to farm life. She bore and reared eight, and I am not sure, but ten children. Her husband was a close, hard-working man, seeing in nothing any value unless it could be turned into gold. He allowed no hours to go to waste, and worked from early morning until late at night, to add to his pecuniary wealth. Of course he was prosperous, as the world goes, and after some years had sufficient to live with comfort and to take life easier. But he did not do it, neither did he allow his family comfort or rest. His wife was different. While she was willing to work, and did so to the full extent of her strength, she had a ruling passion for flowers, and flowers she would have, and would cultivate them in the few minutes she would wring from a full day, until all about her blossomed like the rose. Her husband always complained about the wasted time and wasted space, and always with the added words, 'I don't see what you can want of them; they are neither good for anything to eat or drink or wear.'

"Oh, but they are,' the wife would answer, and go on cultivating them. In the end the children grew up lovers of beauty, and helped their mother, to whom the exercise and outdoor life brought health and strength, and while the husband died worn out in middle life, the wife lives still in a serene old age."—Christian Herald.

Natural Cosmetics.

We have often been told that beauty is but skin-deep, and I have noticed that few keep their beauty until near the meridian of life. In fact, it too often begins to fade soon after the sunrise is left behind. Good health is the main thing to keep people attractive. Abundance of outdoor exercise, frequent baths, and good wholesome food, with regular hours for sleeping and resting, are the best cosmetics known. If we could only remember in hot weather that the system should be kept in order, and the

bath a frequent luxury, great benefit would be derived.

If buttermilk can be obtained, there is no cosmetic equal to it. The acid contained in it not only cures sun-burn, but helps to remove stains from fingers caused by berries, nuts or apples. It is remarkably cooling to the skin, and combined with oatmeal makes a preparation which will be found desirable on any toilet table.

The milk must be sour. Wash the face and hands with it before retiring, let it remain on all night, and you will be surprised to see the tan disappear.

Nut Loaf.

Put through the food chopper sufficient nut meats to measure one and one-half cupfuls; almonds, English walnuts, hazel and hickory nuts may be used in any proportions according to taste, also butternuts and black walnuts, but the latter should be taken in sparing quantity because of their pronounced flavor; add to the chopped nuts one pint of stale bread crumbs, one teaspoonful of salt and one teaspoonful of any preferred sweet herbs; mix well, add sufficient boiling water to moisten, cover closely and let stand for ten minutes to swell; now add another cupful of hot water and turn into a well-greased loaf pan; bake for an hour in a moderate oven and serve hot with a brown sauce, or it may be cooled and served sliced with mayonnaise.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

Wealth.

Let those who seek earth's riches
room—

My wealth is heaven-sent;
A strong right arm and love at home
And in my heart content.
—Charles Henry Chesley, in the May Era.

"I sleep well enough at night,
And the blamest appetite
Ever mortal man possessed."

Riley's farmer is the very picture of a man advanced in years, yet in the enjoyment of perfect health. A good appetite, good digestion and sound sleep, are the chief factors in a vigorous old age. Life is sustained by food, when it is properly digested and assimilated. When digestion fails, there is a loss of nutrition which soon shows itself in physical weakness, nervousness, sleeplessness, etc.

Doctor Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures diseases of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition. It strengthens the body in the only way possible,—by enabling the assimilation of the nutrition extracted from food.

"I used ten bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and several vials of his 'Pleasant Pellets' a year ago this spring, and have had no trouble with indigestion since," writes Mr. W. T. Thompson, of Townsend, Broadwater Co., Montana. "Words fail to tell how thankful I am for the relief, as I had suffered so much and it seemed that the doctors could do me no good. I got down in weight to 125 pounds, and was not able to work at all. Now I weigh nearly 160 and can do a day's work on the farm. I have recommended your medicine to several, and shall always have a good word to say for Dr. Pierce and his medicines."

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I wish simply your name and address—no money. Say which book you want.

I will send with it an order on your druggist to let you have 6 bottles of Dr. Shoop's Restorative. He will let you take it for a month; and if it succeeds, he will charge you \$5.50 for it. If it fails, he will send the bill to me. He will trust to your honesty, leaving the decision to you.

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Mild cases not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

Optimism.

O seek life's charm and sweetness,
Its glory, beauty, joy;
Dwell on its fair completeness,
The gold, not gold's alloy.
Find out the thing that's noble,
Life's honey—not its gall;
Seize on the truth—the gladness
The dear world holds for all.

O grasp the glow, the sparkle,
The music and the mirth,
The things that give men courage,
The things of vital worth.
Bask in the radiant sunlight,
The glory, not the gloom;
Breathe, breathe upon the mountains,
Give wings the joy of room!

Peer not in gloomy caverns,
Where noisome creatures are;
Let all thy gaze go upward
To gleaming sun and star!
Leave skeletons in darkness,
Rejoice in that which lives;
With charity's blest kindness,
Forget where God forgives!
—Mrs. Frank R. Breck, in Ram's Horn.

Salad Dressing.

Very nice for many kinds of salads: One tablespoon each of butter, sugar and salt, scant tablespoon dry mustard; mix smoothly together, add three well beaten eggs, stirring well, 1 cup vinegar, last of all 1 cup of milk; cook in double boiler. If you do not wish to use all the quantity at once it will keep nicely for several days if put in a glass jar in a cool place. This was given me by a friend who was much shocked afterwards when I told her I sometimes used only two eggs and put in a spoonful of cornstarch smoothed in water or milk. But it was very good that way if my friend was skeptical.—Farm, Stock and Home.

Reports from Hayti announce the overthrow of the Jimenez government, and the possession of the entire republic by the insurgent forces. On May 2 the capital city capitulated to the revolutionary forces, and President Jimenez sought refuge at the French consulate.